

# ES&H SYNERGY

DOE/EH-0487-5

## Dr. O'Toole Praises Kansas City Plant as a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health recently notified AlliedSignal Federal Manufacturing and Technologies (FM&T), that the site officially attained VPP STAR status.

In a recent memo to AlliedSignal Government Services President Karen Clegg, Dr. Tara O'Toole stated, "You have joined an elite group of STAR contractors and are setting the standard for excellence in worker safety and health. Your experience with developing innovative and effective solutions for your site's safety and health concerns serves as a model for other DOE sites to emulate."

"All the employees at FM&T are to be commended for their commitment and resolve in achieving the site's goal of becoming world class in safety and health," Dr. O'Toole added.

Only one other DOE facility, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, NM, is a VPP STAR site. The Kansas City Plant's 3,200 employees produce and procure non-nuclear components for nuclear weapons. The facility was conditionally recommended as a VPP STAR site last September. An official flag and certificate presentation will be made by the Assistant Secretary on or about October 1, 1996.

## Office of Energy Research Presents National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Award

On April 17, 1996, at the Energy Research Ninth Semiannual ES&H Coordination Meeting, the Office of Energy Research (ER) presented its "1996 NEPA Compliance Officer (NCO) Quality Awards" to a team of NEPA professionals and individuals in recognition of achievements that improve the NEPA process and advance the goals of NEPA. Dr. Martha Krebs, Director of ER, presented the awards.

Thirteen members of the Energy Research Categorical Exclusion Task Group received the "1996 NCO Quality Awards for NEPA Process Improvement" for the development of new procedures to streamline the ER categorical exclusion process. The availability of new categorical exclusions in the DOE NEPA regulations will streamline the NEPA process for ER, saving both time and money. The awardees were: **Caryle Miller** and **John Yates**, Office of Energy Research; **Emily Dyson**, Roy F. Weston, Inc.; **Vicki Prouty** and **W. Sedgefield White**, Chicago Operations Office; **Donna Green**, Argonne Group; **Julie Mathiesen**, Argonne

*Continued on page 5*



*Recipients of the 1996 Office of Energy Research NEPA Compliance Officer Quality Awards, include: (seated front row) Donna Green, Tony Adduci, Carol Kielusiak, John Yates, Emily Dyson, (standing back row) Bill Osburn, Julie Mathiesen, Tom Sperry, Carly Miller, Paul Dunigan, Jon Cooper, Clarence Hickey. Awardees not pictured are: Vicki Prouty, W. Sedgefield White, Rod Walton, and Allen Wrigley. Photo by Donna Lorza.*

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## SYNERGY &H

*ES&H Synergy* is a quarterly newsletter published by DOE's Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) to promote awareness and information exchange of all environment, safety, and health issues impacting DOE personnel and contractors. Each issue highlights Headquarters and field initiatives in environment, health physics, nuclear and facility safety, occupational medicine, and occupational safety and health. To be added to the distribution list or to receive a copy of this publication, call 1-800-473-4375. *Synergy* is also available electronically through Technical Information Services at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/doc/synergy/synergy.html>.

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# EM/EH Jointly Conduct a Complex-Wide Review of DOE Low-Level Waste Management

On May 17, 1996, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued the results of a complex-wide review of 38 DOE facilities at 36 sites that actively manage low-level (LLW) and radioactive mixed low-level waste (mixed LLW). "The Complex-Wide Review of DOE's Low-Level Waste Management ES&H Vulnerabilities" (CWR) examines the conditions at facilities that could possibly expose workers, the public, and the environment to radiation and radioactive materials.

"We are pleased that the review determined that no urgent, high-risk, operational problems exist in the system, but we are committed to addressing any weaknesses that may occur to assure long-term public and environmental protection," said Stephen P. Cowan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management in the Office of Environmental Management (EM-30).

Through the site-specific assessments of the 38 facilities, 45 site-specific vulnerabilities were identified. The review reveals the conditions and weaknesses at each site that could result in unnecessary radiation exposure or unnecessary releases of radioactive materials to the environment. The majority of the site-specific vulnerabilities resulted from missing or inadequate requirements and a failure to implement existing requirements. The following six complex-wide vulnerabilities, none of which were identified as being in the high or immediate risk category, are:

- Inadequate LLW forecasting and capacity planning
- Ineffective characterization of LLW
- Continued storage of LLW that has a path forward for disposal
- Inadequate storage conditions for LLW
- LLW for which there is no identified or technical path forward for disposition
- Performance assessments not approved and lacking adequate requirements

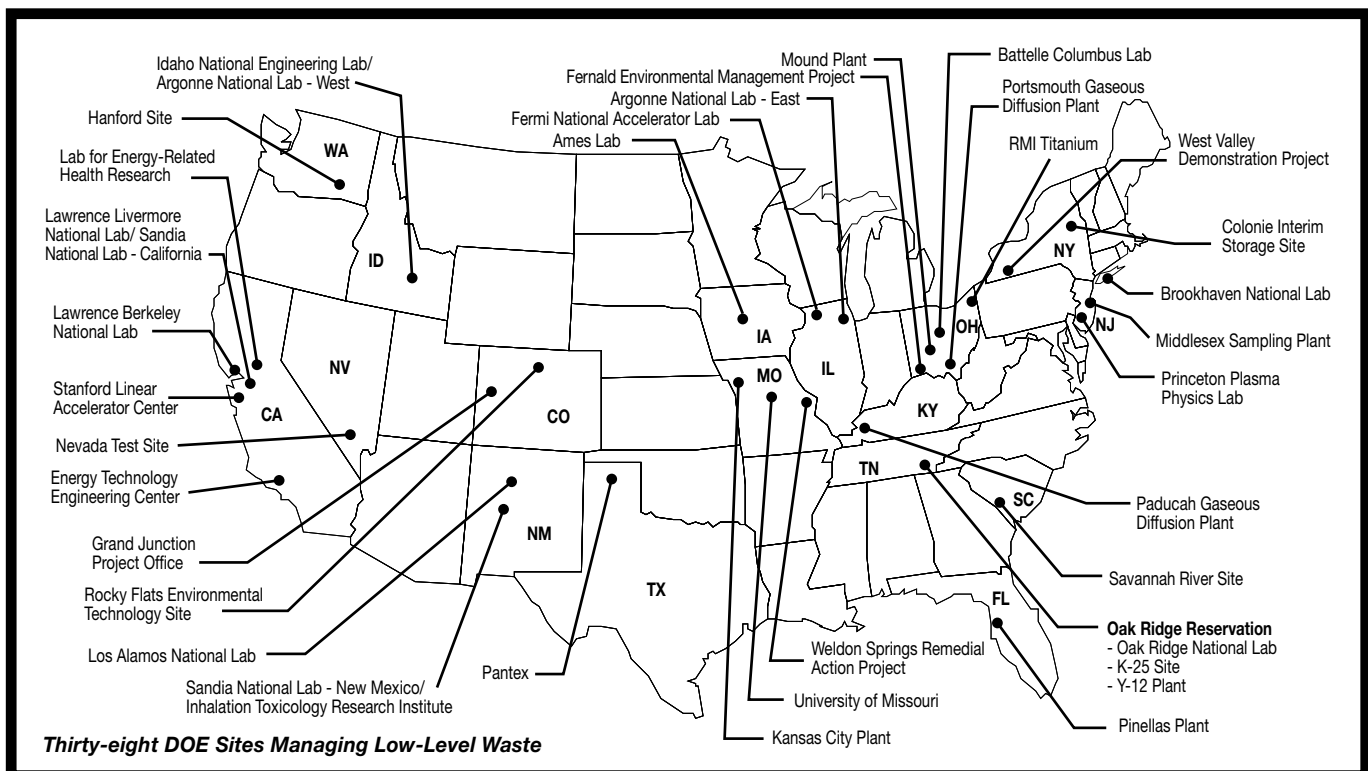
In general, the deficiencies in the DOE LLW management system identified as primary or contributing causes of the complex-wide vulnerabilities reflect a lack of: 1) adequate and comprehensive requirements; 2) consistency across sites in implementing program requirements; and 3) complex-wide perspective and management focus on DOE's LLW policies.

Three general recommendations were developed to address the complex-wide vulnerabilities and state that DOE should:

- Identify the specific inadequacies in its LLW management requirements and develop, where necessary, more comprehensive requirements.
- Identify what level of consistency for implementation of program requirements is necessary across the DOE LLW complex and generate guidance as necessary to achieve consistency.
- Promote a more complex-wide perspective among its senior managers and sites regarding all aspects of LLW management.

Staff from the headquarters offices of Waste Management and Environmental Restoration and the field organized into the Assessment Working Group, the Site Assessment Teams, and the Working Group Assessment Teams, completed this task. Task Manager Martin Letourneau (EM-37) and Deputy Task Manager Adrian Gardner (on assignment from EH-411) spent five months working with team members to meet the aggressive schedule. They noted that the hard work and cooperation of over a hundred field and headquarters personnel produced this extraordinary three volume report ahead of schedule and well below the original projected cost. They also acknowledged the support of upper level EM/EH managers in expediting key decisions and actions of the complex-wide review. Those individuals include: Ray Berube (EH-4), Richard Guimond (EM-2), Steve Cowan (EM-30), Jim Fiore (EM-40), Ray Pelletier (EH-41), and Mark Frei (EM-34).

The CWR was designed to support DOE initiatives that respond to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendation 94-2. The CWR and Site-Specific Assessment Reports will serve as the basis for identifying corrective actions to address safe disposition of past, present, and future volumes of LLW. While the CWR includes recommendations, the corrective actions will be addressed by DOE management as follow-ups to the CWR. For more information, call Adrian Gardner at (202) 586-6984 or e-mail ([adrian.gardner@hq.doe.gov](mailto:adrian.gardner@hq.doe.gov)) or Martin Letourneau at (301) 903-7656 or e-mail ([martin.letourneau@hq.doe.gov](mailto:martin.letourneau@hq.doe.gov)). For copies of the report, call the Center for Environmental Management Information at 1-800-736-9282.





## A One-Stop Regulatory Shop

EnviroText is an on-line searchable library that provides easy access to congressional information, federal laws and regulations, and Indian Tribal Codes and Treaties—a “one-stop-shop” for all of your regulatory and environmental information needs. Included among the many EnviroText resources are the following:

- Bills before Congress
- *The Congressional Record*
- Full-text copies of the *U.S. Code*
- *The Code of Federal Regulations*
- The daily *Federal Register*
- The *Unified Agenda*
- Presidential Executive Orders
- Native American Tribal Codes, which are unique and solely maintained by our Support Center
- Native American Treaties and Agreements

EnviroText is unique because it contains congressional, federal, and Native American information located under one Home Page using one search engine—INQUERY. With INQUERY, there are no thick manuals to read and understand, simply type in your word search string. INQUERY has a distributed searching capability that allows searches among many different data sets to occur quickly and easily. EnviroText can be accessed at <http://tamora.cs.umass.edu/info/envirottext/index.html>.

EnviroText was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Departments of Energy, Interior, Justice, and Defense. Currently, the Department of Energy and the Computing Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, maintain EnviroText. The Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance RCRA/CERCLA Division (EH-413) and the Office of Information Management (EH-72) recently teamed to maintain EnviroText. Working together, EH-413 and EH-72 will substantially reduce their costs in making this data available through the Technical Information Services, free of charge, to DOE elements and to all federal agencies, businesses, and the public.

Because of EnviroText's unique data sets and search capabilities, it was chosen to be part of the Vice President's *U.S. Business Advisor* ([www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov)). The *Business Advisor* was created by several federal agencies working together to provide a one-stop electronic link to all information and services that the federal government provides to businesses. For additional information on EnviroText, contact Jerry Dicerbo (EH-413) at (202) 586-5047, fax at (202) 586-39315 or e-mail ([gerald.dicerbo@hq.doe.gov](mailto:gerald.dicerbo@hq.doe.gov)).

## New Health Study of Y-12 Workers Published

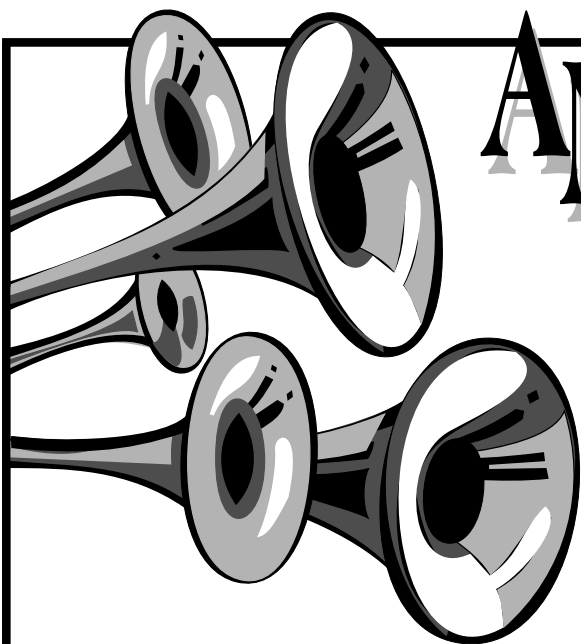
Researchers from the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health recently published the results of a mortality follow-up study of 10,597 persons who worked at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Between 1943 and 1947, the Y-12 Plant produced enriched uranium for atomic weapons. After 1947, work activities at Y-12 focused on research, fabrication, assembly, and recycling of nuclear materials for atomic weapons. Workers who were employed there between 1943 and 1974, for at least 30 days, were included in this study. For workers who had died prior to 1991, researchers obtained cause-of-death information from their death certificates and compared the data to the United States population.

On March 28, 1996, Dana Loomis, Ph.D, an epidemiologist from the University of North Carolina and the lead investigator of this study, made presentations on the study's findings to both managers and workers at the Y-12 site and residents of Oak Ridge. The study found that white-male Y-12 workers exhibited a 20 percent higher death rate from lung cancer when compared to the United States white-male population. Among all the cancer deaths examined, only that type of cancer showed a statistically significant increase. Because the authors interpreted this increase as being work related, they called for continuing surveillance of lung cancer deaths in Y-12 workers, along with attention to worker exposures to radiation, beryllium, solvents, and other agents used at Y-12.

A video tape of Loomis' presentation is available from the Oak Ridge Operations Office of Public Affairs by telephoning (423) 576-0888. The study paper entitled “Mortality of Workers at a Nuclear Materials Production Plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 1947-1990,” by Dana P. Loomis and Susanne H. Wolf was published in the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 29: 1996, pp. 131-141. Copies of this article are available in the DOE public reading rooms or from the Office of Epidemiologic Studies (EH-62) by calling (301) 903-3721.

To communicate the results of the Oak Ridge Study to DOE workers nationwide, EH-62 has distributed a Health Bulletin summarizing this study and is incorporating the study's data files into the DOE public-use database called Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource (CEDR). As part of its responsibility to protect worker health and promote safety, EH-62 is also increasing its efforts to work directly with site health and safety personnel to examine the implications of the study results for site operations and worker activities.

For further information concerning this study or for copies of the Health Bulletin, please contact Ed Washburn at (301) 903-2335 or e-mail ([ed.washburn@hq.doe.gov](mailto:ed.washburn@hq.doe.gov)). For more information concerning CEDR, contact Barbara Brooks at (301) 903-4674 or e-mail ([barbara.brooks@hq.doe.gov](mailto:barbara.brooks@hq.doe.gov)), or Internet access CEDR at <http://cedr.lbl.gov/>.



# ANNOUNCING!!!

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*To participate, please send your name, mailing address, organization name,  
E-mail address, and phone number to our Internet address:*

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**call: 1-800-473-4375**

***Please respond by August 20, 1996.***

**Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environment, Safety and Health**

### Office of Energy Research Presents National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Award continued from page 1

National Laboratory; **Jon Cooper**, Fermi Group; **Rod Walton**, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; **Allen Wrigley**, Princeton Group; **Thomas Sperry**, Brookhaven National Laboratory; **Anthony Adduci**, Oakland Operations Office; **Carol Kielusiak**, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

**Paul F. X. Dunigan, Jr.**, Richland Operations Office (RL), received the "1996 NCO Quality Award for Successfully Implementing Delegated Authority" for his leadership and direction that created a model program of successfully implementing delegated authority for approval of DOE NEPA documents at RL. Dunigan's efforts at RL and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have streamlined and standardized the NEPA process by providing training for Department and Laboratory personnel. His efforts have assisted ER and the Department in achieving the environmental stewardship goals of the NEPA.

**William S. Osburn, Ph.D.**, of DOE received the "1996 NCO Quality Award for Sustained NEPA Leadership" for his work on ecological systems and natural resources related to NEPA goals. Osburn played an integral role in the establishment of the Department's National Environmental Research

Park Program and its seven ecosystem sanctuaries during the 1970s. The Research Park concept grew out of NEPA and the need to protect and to study the environment.

The "NCO Quality Awards" are based on achieving the goals of NEPA and the goals of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations that implement the Act's procedural provisions. A "Quality Award" recipient must have contributed measurably and significantly to ER's NEPA services or products and achieved sustained high performance in any aspect of the NEPA process, resulting in quality outputs. This year marks the third year of this ER's awards program. For additional information, contact Clarence Hickey (ER) at (301) 903-2314 or e-mail ([clarence.hickey@oer.doe.gov](mailto:clarence.hickey@oer.doe.gov)).

## OSHA Enforcement Pilot at Argonne National Laboratory

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environment, Safety and Health, DOE Argonne Group, Argonne National Laboratory (ANL), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are partnered in a pilot project to conduct OSHA enforcement at ANL. Implemented in May 1996, this 6-month OSHA pilot uses a model enforcement procedure developed for the private sector and focuses on ensuring an effective safety and health program at the workplace, rather than traditional OSHA compliance inspections.

The pilot will assist DOE and OSHA in addressing the issues and barriers affecting the transition of occupational safety and health jurisdiction to OSHA by identifying OSHA resource needs and ensuring that external enforcement provides added value in the protection of DOE contractor employees. Although ANL will not be under OSHA jurisdiction during this pilot, OSHA will provide simulated "citations" for any violations noted (including what the fines and penalties would be under OSHA jurisdiction). Data collected from this effort will be used in a study in progress at the National Academy of Public Administration that is examining the overall legal, legislative, and policy issues that will face both OSHA and DOE during the Department's transition to OSHA external regulation. For more information, contact Joe Hopkins (EH-51) at (301) 903-5619 or e-mail ([joe.hopkins@hq.doe.gov](mailto:joe.hopkins@hq.doe.gov)) or Terry Krietz (EH-51) at (301) 903-6456 or e-mail ([terry.krietz@hq.doe.gov](mailto:terry.krietz@hq.doe.gov)).

## OSHA Reduces Regulations

To answer President Clinton's call to reduce OSHA regulations by more than 1,000 pages, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) conducted a comprehensive review of its regulations and removed approximately 275 out of 3,000 pages of regulations. All sections or provisions revoked were deemed removable without reducing worker safety and health. Joseph A. Dear, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, considers this reduction a down payment on the President's request. The reduction also responds to suggestions from the public and Congress on how to ease the burdens on OSHA regulated employers and employees.

Quick fixes and technical amendments made it possible for these 275 pages of regulations to be cut. Initial minor and noncontroversial regulation changes include combining the health standards for 13 carcinogenic chemicals into a single section, eliminating duplicate text references, removing address listings of national standards organizations whose standards have been incorporated by reference, and revoking obsolete or redundant paragraphs concerning state occupational safety and health programs.

Future cuts will involve working conditions that are covered by other federal regulatory agencies and consolidating fit-testing criteria for respirators in the final respirator standard. For additional information, call Joe Hopkins (EH-51) at (301) 903-5619 or e-mail ([joe.hopkins@hq.doe.gov](mailto:joe.hopkins@hq.doe.gov)).

## DOE Response Line Answers Your Standards Questions



The Department of Energy (DOE) Worker Safety and Health Standards Interpretations (INTERPS) Response Line (1-800-292-8061) is a resource that receives, researches and composes responses to callers regarding DOE directives, DOE-adopted and -prescribed Occupational Safety and Health standards, DOE-adopted consensus standards, and the general duty clause. Unprecedented questions may result in new interpretations. Timely responses are provided to DOE and DOE contractor employees.

Following is DOE interpretation D96-03-028 regarding offsite injuries and illnesses recording.

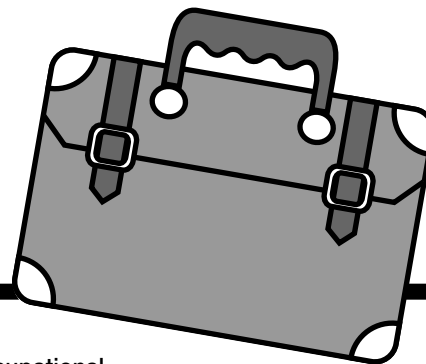
"Are injuries and illnesses that occur offsite (not at a DOE-owned or -leased facility) recordable under the requirements outlined under the new Order (DOE 231.1) and DOE Manual 231.1-1?"

The Response Line answer:

Department of Labor publication, "Recordkeeping and Reporting Guidelines for Occupational Injuries and Illnesses," considers off-premise injuries and illness exposures to be work related if the employee is engaged in a work activity or if the injury or illness exposure occurs in the work environment. According to the Guidelines, work environment includes "locations where employees are engaged in job tasks or work-related activities, or places where employees are present due to the nature of their job or as a condition of their employment."

Do you have questions regarding DOE safety and health policy? Call the DOE Worker Safety and Health Standards Interpretations Response Line at its toll free number, 1-800-292-8061. You can also electronically access unprecedented Interpretations via the Technical Information Services (TIS) Web Site at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/docs/interpretations/main.html>. If you do not have access to TIS or the Internet and want to obtain electronic copies of this and other DOE interpretations, call 1-800-292-8061 from Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. For more information on the Response Line program, contact Eleanor Crampton (EH-51) at (301) 903-3732 or e-mail ([eleanor.crampton@hq.doe.gov](mailto:eleanor.crampton@hq.doe.gov)).

# Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, RCRA/CERCLA Division Issues "Asbestos" and "CERFA" Information Briefs



## **Regulatory Requirements Affecting Disposal of Asbestos-Containing Waste**

The process of deactivation and decommissioning activities at many facilities often generates asbestos-containing waste because asbestos is present in many older building materials, including floor tile, sealants, plastics, cement pipe, cement sheets, insulating boards, and insulating cements. What becomes of this hazardous waste? The regulatory requirements governing the disposal of these wastes depend on the following factors: 1) the percentage of asbestos in the waste and whether the waste is friable (easily crumbled or pulverized); 2) other physical and chemical characteristics of the waste; and 3) the State in which the waste is generated.

The Information Brief on this subject (EH-413-062/1195, November 1995) provides an overview of the environmental regulatory requirements affecting disposal of asbestos-containing waste. The Brief, however, does not address regulatory

requirements applicable to worker protection promulgated under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Mining Safety and Health Act, or the Toxic Substances Control Act.

## **RCRA and CERCLA Requirements Associated with the Sale and Transfer of DOE Property**

To mitigate adverse economic effects of the reconfiguration and reduction in the size of the Defense complex, Congress passed the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) in October 1992. This legislation amends the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), establishing a process for identifying, prior to the termination of Federal activities, property that does not contain contamination from the storage, release, or disposal of hazardous substances or petroleum products or their derivatives. The prompt identification of property that will not require environmental remediation is intended to facilitate the transfer of such property for economic redevelopment purposes. Other Federal laws, such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), contain requirements pertinent to the sale or transfer of DOE property. This Information Brief (EH-231-022/1193, November 1993) summarizes the RCRA and CERCLA statutory and regulatory requirements pertinent to the sale or transfer of DOE property.

To obtain a copy of these Information Briefs, call the Office of Scientific and Technical Information at (615) 576-8401 or the Center for Environmental Management at 1-800-736-3282. Questions regarding the information briefs should be directed to Beverly Whitehead (EH-413) at (202) 586-6073, fax at (202) 586-3915, or e-mail ([beverly.whitehead@hq.doe.gov](mailto:beverly.whitehead@hq.doe.gov)).

## "Phased Response/Early Actions Under CERCLA" Guidance Available

Helping to foster the Department of Energy's commitment to "better, faster, cheaper" conduct of its environmental restoration program, the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, RCRA/CERCLA Division (EH-413) published the "Phased Response/Early Actions Under CERCLA" (DOE/EH-0506, November 1995) with the support of the former Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Compliance and Program Coordination, Office of Environmental Activities. This document, the second in a series of three, focuses on the use of early response actions as a means to achieve rapid and efficient risk reduction at hazardous waste sites.

The "Phased Response/Early Action" guidance points out that the aggressive use of *early actions*, defined as removal actions, interim remedial actions, and/or early final actions, can quickly reduce risk

and also show that action is being taken. These early actions can provide the first steps in a phased response, where early actions constitute the first phase of a longer-term remedial response to more difficult restoration problems.

This phased response approach is consistent with, and draws upon, many existing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, guidance and Federal facility initiatives. For example, the National Contingency Plan, EPA's Superfund Accelerated Clean-up Model, and the joint EPA/DOE/Department of Defense, "Guidance on Accelerating CERCLA Environmental Restoration at Federal Facilities" (August 24, 1994) encourage the use of early actions to achieve timely risk reduction at contaminated sites.

Similarly, EPA's "Guidance for Evaluating the Technical Impracticability of Groundwater Restoration" (OSWER Directive 9234.2-24, October 4, 1993) promotes the integration of early actions and longer-term remedial actions into a phased clean-up strategy for groundwater sites where contamination with dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs) presents significant uncertainty for successful remediation. The "Phased Response/Early Action" guidance advances that concept by stating that the strategic mix of early and long-term actions should not be limited to groundwater contaminated with DNAPLs, but should be applied to sites where

*Continued on page 9*

# Consolidated Departmental Response to the Proposed Hazardous Waste Identification Rule (HWIR)

On December 21, 1995, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the proposed Hazardous Waste Identification Rule (60 *Federal Register* 66344) that would amend the hazardous waste identification regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This notice proposes to establish constituent-specific exit levels for low-risk solid wastes that are designated as hazardous because they are listed, or have been mixed with, derived from, or contain listed hazardous wastes. This notice also proposes to modify some of the Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) numerical treatment standards and requests comments on several options for conditional exemption from RCRA Subtitle C management.

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment (EH-4) submitted a consolidated Department of Energy (DOE) response to this proposed rule to EPA on April 19, 1996. The response, developed in close coordination with the Office of Technical Services (EM-37) and the Department's HWIR-Waste Focus Group, combines the viewpoints and concerns identified by DOE program offices and field organizations. This response is available through the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (EH-41) Web Site at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa>.

DOE comments support EPA's efforts to establish risk-based exit levels for listed hazardous wastes. Many of the comments address specific issues related to the development of HWIR exit levels and LDR minimize threat levels, the multipathway risk assessment used, and the proposed implementation requirement.

In addition, the comment package discusses the Department's primary proposals in response to the HWIR notice that relate to the management of certain mixed wastes. Specifically, the Department's response requests that EPA adopt regulations that conditionally exclude immobilized mixed waste debris and vitrified mixed waste from RCRA Subtitle C regulation.

DOE forwarded two technical proposals to EPA in July and October 1995 which support the position that managing immobilized low-level mixed waste debris and vitrified mixed waste after treatment as non-RCRA wastes under Atomic Energy Act requirements are protective of human health and the environment. As a result of these DOE proposals, limited resources that are currently devoted to managing immobilized mixed debris and vitrified mixed wastes pursuant to RCRA Subtitle C could be diverted to activities that address higher risks to human health and the environment. In addition, low-level mixed debris and low-level vitrified mixed wastes that would potentially be excluded under these proposals could more readily be removed from storage and disposed of as low-level wastes rather than mixed wastes.

The Department also provided technical data and information regarding these proposals to states through the National Governors' Association. The comment package requests that EPA consider developing testing requirements applicable for demonstrating whether low-risk mixed wastes have met HWIR exemption criteria, and expresses the Department's interest to work with EPA and authorized states on such a testing program.

For additional information regarding the HWIR proposed rule and/or the Departmental response, please contact Al Sikri or Bill Fortune, Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, RCRA/CERCLA Division (EH-413) at (202) 586-1879 or 586-7302, or e-mail ([alan.sikri@hq.doe.gov](mailto:alan.sikri@hq.doe.gov)) or ([william.fortune@hq.doe.gov](mailto:william.fortune@hq.doe.gov)) respectively.

## Ground Water Remediation Guide

The Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance (OEPA), RCRA/CERCLA Division (EH-413) recently issued its "Guide to Ground Water Remediation at CERCLA Responses and RCRA Corrective Action Sites" (DOE/EH-0505). This guidance document provides an applicable "regulatory roadmap" with concise explanations of how specific requirements of the National Contingency Plan, related RCRA regulations, relevant EPA and DOE guidance, and DOE orders are addressed in ground water remediation activities at DOE sites.

To obtain a copy of the ground water guide, call the Office of Scientific and Technical Information at (615) 576-8401 or the Center for Environmental Management at 1-800-736-3282. It is also available from the OEPA Web Site via the Internet at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa>. Questions regarding ground water remediation in CERCLA response and RCRA corrective actions or on the Guide, may be directed to Katherine Nakata (EH-413) at (202) 586-0801, fax at (202) 586-3915, or e-mail ([katherine.nakata@hq.doe.gov](mailto:katherine.nakata@hq.doe.gov)).



## "Phased Response/Early Actions Under CERCLA" Guidance Available continued from page 7

conditions of significant uncertainty are present, regardless of media or contaminant.

Through the use of flow-charts, step-by-step instructions, and detailed, real examples taken from the DOE complex, the "Phased Response/Early Action" guidance explains how to:

- determine which site problems are good candidates for early actions;
- determine which early action authority (removal or remedial) would be best for a particular contaminated site scenario;
- develop and document a phased response strategy which integrates early and longer-term actions, and;
- demonstrate and document how aggressive phased response strategies are fully compliant with CERCLA legislation, regulation and guidance.

DOE and EPA headquarters and field organizations reviewed drafts of the "Phased Response/Early Action" guidance and received them favorably. The "Phased Response/Early Action" guidance is available for viewing and downloading on the EH-41 Web Site at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa>.

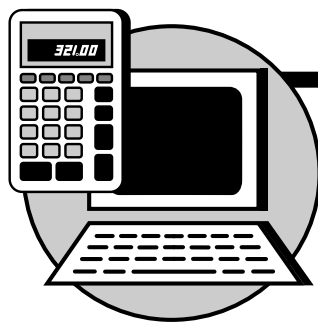
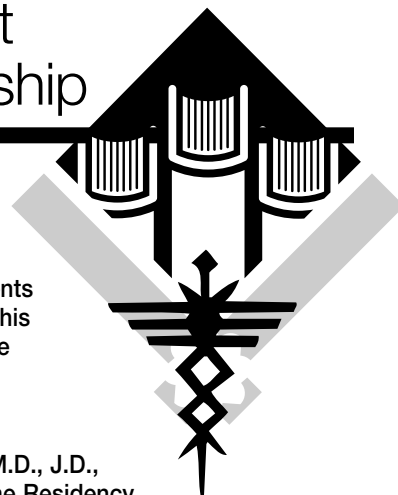
The first document in the series, "The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Process, Elements and Techniques" (DOE/EH-94007658, December 1993) outlines the CERCLA remedial process from scoping through selection of the remedy. The third document, currently under development, covers issues relating to design and implementation of environmental restoration actions conducted under both CERCLA and RCRA authorities. All three documents present strategies, tactics, and examples of effective ways to streamline the remediation process. For more information on the "Phased Response/Early Action" guidance, or the other two documents, call Rich Dailey (EH-413) at (202) 586-7117 or e-mail ([richard.dailey@hq.doe.gov](mailto:richard.dailey@hq.doe.gov)).

## Johns Hopkins Resident Completes DOE Externship

In an effort to foster excellence in the practice of occupational medicine and familiarize physicians-in-training with Department of Energy (DOE) issues and concerns, the Office of Occupational Medicine and Medical Surveillance (EH-61) periodically hosts residents in occupational medicine for a 1-month externship. This rotation includes participation in a wide range of office activities and complements the physician's academic experience with actual DOE issues.

During the month of February 1996, Gary Rischitelli, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., from the Johns Hopkins Occupational Medicine Residency Program, worked in EH-61. While learning about the business of EH-61, Rischitelli made many contributions to the office's work. For example, he participated in a field investigation of an employee health concern at Oak Ridge and in a meeting to discuss a plan for a follow-up study between the employees who raised the concern and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Hazard Evaluation Review Team. In addition, he reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency's "Hazardous Air Pollutants Study" and provided the Office of Health Studies comments on technical aspects of that document. His medical and legal expertise also proved helpful when he participated in internal rulemaking discussions for the Personnel Assurance Program's medical requirements being developed by EH-61. He completes his occupational medicine residency training at Johns Hopkins in June 1996.

EH-61 has hosted 4 such residents from occupational medicine programs across the United States over the last 4 years. The externship provides residents with the opportunity to broaden their experience and outlook and EH-61 gains the unique perspectives and talents of each physician.



## The RQ-Calculator

Any DOE facility that handles hazardous substances must comply with the Federal spill reporting requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), Section 103 (a). Any time a hazardous substance is released into the environment, and that release exceeds its Reportable Quantity (RQ) within a 24-hour period, the release must be reported to the Environ-

mental Protection Agency's National Response Center (NRC). However, determining if a hazardous substance has exceeded its RQ is complicated by a number of factors, such as, the regulatory identity of the substance(s) released and calculating the amount of the material released.

To streamline the calculation process, the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance, RCRA/CERCLA Division created the RQ-Calculator—a computer program that simplifies the identification and calculation of reportable quantities of hazardous substances from accidental spills. The program provides a list of hazardous substances (including synonyms), calculates the amount of the regulated substance spilled, compares the resulting value to the chemical's reportable quantity, and advises the user if the NRC should be notified.

The RQ-Calculator can be downloaded from the Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance Web Site under "What's New?" at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa>. For information about the RQ-Calculator program, contact Jerry DiCerbo (EH-413) at (202) 586-5047, fax at (202) 586-3915, or e-mail ([gerald.dicerbo@hq.doe.gov](mailto:gerald.dicerbo@hq.doe.gov)).

## DOE NEPA and Contracting Communities Team up in Workshop

The chemistry was perfect for promoting creative solutions as more than 70 DOE NEPA practitioners, contracting specialists, and counsel gathered to address contract reform at a workshop sponsored by the Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (EH-42). The March 1996 NEPA Contracting Reform Workshop explored the theme of "Do It Right the First Time," the central recommendation of the Phase II NEPA Contracting Reform Guidance issued by the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health in December 1995. The workshop's purpose was to identify contracting actions that can achieve NEPA process cost savings through better management of existing contracts and better approaches for new contracts. The workshop was a breakthrough in bringing together the Department's NEPA and procurement communities to help achieve the NEPA cost savings identified in the Department's Strategic Alignment Initiative 29.

Workshop participants offered several recommendations based on the lessons learned from their contracting experience including:

- There is a need for teamwork and cross training among NEPA specialists and procurement specialists. The NEPA Document Manager should be trained in both NEPA requirements and project management techniques.
- Early interdisciplinary planning to define the purpose and need of the planned NEPA review, as well as early acquisition planning, are necessary to effectively manage contracts.
- Preparing a good performance-based statement of work is key to a successful process. Expectations must be clear to support contractor performance evaluations.
- Performance incentives—financial awards, recognition, prospects for future assignments—should be an integral part of the contracting process.
- Task order contracting, established in advance, enables a timely start of a contractor's work. Multiple award procurements also have advantages.

The workshop identified future directions for Phase III of NEPA Contracting Reform, which extends through December 1996. EH-42 is supporting two follow-up working groups: a group that will develop one or more NEPA task order contracts that may be shared among multiple field offices held a follow-up workshop in Albuquerque, NM, on May 22-23, 1996, at which specific schedules and work assignments were adopted; and a second group is developing guidance for NEPA Document Managers on applying project management techniques to the NEPA process.

For information on NEPA Contract Reform Phase III activities, please contact Carolyn Osborne at (202) 586-4596, fax at (202) 586-7031, or e-mail ([carolyn.osborne@hq.doe.gov](mailto:carolyn.osborne@hq.doe.gov)).

## FAX on Demand Offers Speedier Delivery

The Office of Environment, Safety and Health "**FAX ON DEMAND**" provides readers with round-the-clock automated service, speedier delivery for many publications, and also reduces printing and distribution costs. New publications are regularly added to the system. Publications available on the system include *ES&H Updates*, Safety and Health Notes, Bulletins, Hazard Alerts, Executive Order 12196—Occupational Safety and Health Programs for Federal Employees, and many other ES&H related publications. (Please see the *Safety and Health Note*, DOE/EH-0521, "New Publications Available by FAX" that discusses this service).

To receive faxed copies of these environment, safety and health documents, call the fax at (301) 903-6692 from a **touch-tone phone**, know your fax machine number, or call from a fax phone. Follow the voice prompt to order the required publications, enter your complete fax number at the prompt, and hang up. Your requested publication will be faxed within minutes to your location. For more information on FAX on Demand for EH publications, call Therese Burke at (301) 903-8807 or e-mail ([therese.burke@hq.doe.gov](mailto:therese.burke@hq.doe.gov)).

***This is your final printed copy unless your mailing label is returned to the Managing Editor, EH-72 by August 30, 1996.***

## DOE Site Leaders Dialogue Meeting

Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety, participated in the DOE Site Leaders Dialogue Meeting held in conjunction with the Carpenters Health & Safety Conference in Palm Springs, California, on March 26, 1996. The sixth annual conference was held by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters Health & Safety Fund of North America from March 25-27, 1996. Attendees included carpenter representatives from the Department of Energy sites and representatives from other skilled trades unions.

As part of a three-person panel at the Dialogue Meeting, Fitzgerald provided background information on training and emergency preparedness and established a constant dialogue between the panel and audience. To receive a copy of Fitzgerald's talking points, call (301) 903-5532.

# Enhancing the ES&H Professional's Information Proficiency

As the provider for information management services to the Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) personnel, the Office of Information Management (EH-72) recently launched a series of information awareness workshops and seminars. This was done in response to a goal set by Dr. Tara O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, to increase information proficiency within the EH organization. Three recent efforts, Internet technology, strategic data planning, and data visualization, all promote Dr. O'Toole's vision of providing the right person with the right information in the right form.

During the Internet technology workshops, more than 200 ES&H staff received an explanation and history of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Experiencing cyberspace firsthand, they saw how easy it is to find information on the Internet. Beginning and experienced Internet users learned navigational skills and methods of networking with



others in their fields of expertise via newsgroups and other interactive resources. The workshops laid the foundations for users to visualize the Internet as a widely-distributed platform which could support information sharing and net-based applications. Using EH's own Technical Information Service's (TIS) Web Site as the gateway to the Internet, workshops participants identified easy-to-use links to the information they need.

The second awareness goal, strategic data planning, focused on the power of standardizing data and data access methods across the entire EH "enterprise." The attendees were a combined group of over 40 people from various EH and other DOE offices and contractor organizations, including DOE's Chief Information Officer Woody Hall and the Office of Energy Research's Director of Information Management, Dick Yockman. Noted author and lecturer, Steven H. Spewak, Ph.D. conducted this class and explained the concept of strategic data planning, referred to by him as "enterprise architecture planning" (EAP). Spewak emphasized the planning aspect of EAP which will result in a high-level blueprint for data, applications, and technology that is a cost-effective solution and not a quick fix. EAP shows that, since certain data are shared by more than one user in the EH community, those data should be stored in a manner that allows each user to access and use the same data for each unique purpose. Ultimately, the goal of enterprise architecture planning is to have standardized stored data accessible to all qualified users in a way that allows analyses and measurements across different types of data formerly stored in separate systems.

Forty people attended the "Visualization of Information and Data" seminar, conducted by best-selling author and expert in the field, Edward Tufte, Ph.D. In this seminar, Tufte explained that with so much data available, it is necessary to prepare information for smaller, "sound-bite" spaces and effectively share the collection of data with others. Tufte's approach to the challenge is one of graphic design: endeavor to communicate data in an attractive and uncluttered form, directing the observer's eye to the prominent features and eliminating extraneous material.

Overall, the information awareness workshops and seminars combined to give the EH community new perspectives and toolsets for managing their information requirements more effectively and to provide methods of collaborating in new ways. Future workshops are planned for several new initiatives, including graphical user interfaces (GUIs), electronic publishing, and instituting data quality for ES&H. The new web-based GUIs added to our major ES&H data repositories, ORPS and CAIRS, will provide users with the power of the PC Windows environment coupled with the range of the Internet for accessing and analyzing these data. Users will be able to navigate a visually simplified set of screens and access data for realtime analyses in spreadsheets and other graphical illustrations.

In a separate initiative from the GUIs, a workshop is planned for exposing EH document creators to emerging standards for electronic publishing. In this workshop, attendees will

learn new and simplified tools and methods for producing Internet-compatible text and graphic formats (e.g., HTML, PDF, and JPG or GIF). Workshop participants will gain an understanding of how easily these formats are created and why they are more readily interchanged for electronic publishing.

The initiative of fostering data quality for ES&H is tightly coupled to the EAP work, and supports the "scrubbing" and standardization of data across all of EH. This will be accomplished by the formalization of an enterprise-wide data dictionary, which will identify a single precise definition for each element of EH data that is required for accomplishing the mission of each EH group. Applications and data collections will be standardized to follow this model, creating data that has value and is easily shared from mission to mission.

Combining information technology and services such as the workshops and seminars described, EH-72 continues to facilitate integrated access to quality environment, safety and health information. A wide offering of special and routine services are always available—call the ES&H InfoCenter at 1-800-473-4375 or visit their Web Site at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov>.

## ACRONYM LIST

ANL	Argonne National Laboratory
CEDR	Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CWR	"Complex-Wide Review of DOE's Low Level Waste Management ES&H Vulnerabilities"
DNAPL	Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids
DOE	Department of Energy
EH	Office of Environment, Safety and Health
EM	Office of Environmental Management
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ER	Office of Energy Research
FM&T	AlliedSignal Federal Manufacturing and Technologies
GUI	Graphical User Interface
HWIR	Hazardous Waste Identification Rule
LDR	Land Disposal Restriction
LLW	Low-Level Waste
MSHA	Mining Safety and Health Act
NCO	NEPA Compliance Officer
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRC	(EPA) National Response Center
OHSAct	Occupational Safety and Health Act
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
RL	Richland Operations Office
RQ	Reportable Quantity
TIS	Technical Information Services
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
VPP	Voluntary Protection Program



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